

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MASERU 00788 061617Z

43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /119 W
----- 031940

R 061300Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4198

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 0788

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT LT

SUBJ: LESOTHO CABINET CHANGES

REF : A. MASERU 783

B. MASERU A-45 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: EXPLAINING CABINET CHANGES ON RADIO LESOTHO EVENING JULY 12, PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZED THEY WOULD IMPROVE AND STRENGTHEN GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY. BELIEVE CHANGES JONATHAN'S RESPONSE TO WIDE-SPREAD DISENCHANTMENT WITH HIS GOVERNMENT AND, AS SUCH, WILL BUY HIM TIME WITH CRITICS. CHANGES, HOWEVER, LARGELY COSMETIC AND DO NOT UPSET POWER CENTER OF RULING BASUTO-LAND NATIONAL PARTY (BNP). JONATHAN PREVIOUSLY HAD A WEAK CABINET AND HE STILL DOES. U.S. SHOULD ENJOY ACCESS TO NEW CABINET EQUAL TO THAT OF OLD. END SUMMARY.

2. CHIEF JONATHAN'S RADIO BROADCAST JULY 12 STRESSED NEED FOR IMPROVING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AS REASON FOR CABINET CHANGES. HE PUT HIMSELF CLEARLY ABOVE THE BATTLE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MASERU 00788 061617Z

AS IF TO SEPARATE HIMSELF FROM ANY CHARGES OF MISMAN-

AGEMENT. MOST OF SPEECH HORTATIVE, URGING SENIOR OFFICIALS TO WORK HARDER, ETC., BUT HE ALSO CALLED FOR END OF "DIVISIVENESS" AND URGED CLERICAL AND TEACHER CRITICS TO COOPERATE, I.E., TO GET OFF HIS BACK. WE BELIEVE HIS GOVERNMENT'S NUMEROUS DETRACTORS (REFAIR) HAD GOTTEN TO HIM AND HE FELT OBLIGED TO RESPOND. HIS RESPONSE WAS MAJOR CABINET SHUFFLE, INTRODUCING FEW NEW FACES AND DROPPING SOME OLD ONES BUT DOING NOTHING THAT WOULD SERIOUSLY UPSET BNP'S INNER CIRCLE. THIS WILL BUY TIME WHILE CRITICS EVALUATE NEW GOVERNMENT BUT WE ANTICIPATE TIME WILL BE SHORT.

2. AMONG MINISTERS WITH PORTFOLIOS, ONLY FINANCE MINISTER E.R. SEKHONYANA RETAINS OLD JOB. HE LOST COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, AND LABOR FUNCTIONS TO NEW MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY BUT THIS SHOULD ENABLE HIM TO CONCENTRATE HIS ABILITIES ON LESOTHO'S PRESSING FINANCIAL PROBLEMS. TWO MINISTERS OF STATE, CHIEF THLOHANG LEROTHOLI AND JOHN MOTEPHY, ALSO RETAIN FORMER POSITIONS.

3. MAJORITY OF REST OF OLD CABINET MERELY RESHUFFLED. OF STRONGEST MEMBERS, SEKHONYANA MASERIBANE REMAINS DEPUTY PM BUT GOES TO WORKS FROM AGRICULTURE; PEETE PEETE GOES TO AGRICULTURE FROM FOREIGN AFFAIRS. WE SEE NO DEMOTIONS OR PROMOTIONS HERE AND BELIEVE JONATHAN WOULD NOT TRY TO FORCE ON EITHER MAN CHANGES THEY WOULD FIND WHOLLY UNACCEPTABLE. LESS FORTUNATE IS C.D. MOLAPO, WHOSE RUINOUS MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION MINISTRIES LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT DISSATISFACTION WITH GOVERNMENT. MOLAPO IS PROBABLY TOO CLOSE TO BNP POWER CENTER TO BE DROPPED COMPLETELY BUT HIS RELEGATION TO LEAST CONSEQUENTIAL JUSTICE MINISTRY INDICATES HIS WRISTS HAVE BEEN FINALLY SLAPPED.

4. DROPPED FROM CABINET ARE WORKS MINISTER MATETE, MINISTER TO PM MAJARA, AND MISTATE LETSIE. LETSIE, AT 65 CAN GRACEFULLY RETIRE. NOT SO, MATETE, 51, AND MAJARA, 49. MATETE'S TENURE AT WORKS HAS SEEN ROAD AND TELEPHONE SYSTEMS SINK TO NEW LOWS AND HE WAS PROBABLY LIABILITY TO JONATHAN. MAJARA HAS BEEN RELATIVELY ENERGETIC SPOKES-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MASERU 00788 061617Z

MAN AND TROUBLESHOOTER FOR PM AND REASON FOR HIS DEPARTURE NOT YET APPARENT.

5. AMONG NEW MEMBERS WE SEE NO CAUSE FOR REJOICING. A.S. RALEBITSO (EDUCATION) HAS BEEN IN CIVIL SERVICE, FORMERLY AS EDUCATION PERMSEC AND UNTIL PRESENT AS PRIVATE SECRETARY TO JONATHAN. HE IS VIRTUALLY KNOWN TO US. CHIEF PATRICK MOTA (HEALTH AND SOCIAL WELFARE) IS ALSO

UNKNOWN, HAVING DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT AFTER PREVIOUS SERVICE TO JONATHAN AS MINHEALTH AND MINISTER TO PM. NEW FOREIGN MINISTER JOSEPH KOTSOHOANE, PRESENTLY HIGH COMMISSIONER IN NAIROBI, SHOULD PROVE TRACTABLE BUT HIS INFLUENCE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS WILL NOT EQUAL HIS PREDECESSOR'S. WE EXPECT JONATHAN, WHO HAS BEEN DISPLEASED WITH SOME OF PEETE PEETE'S THIRD WORLD TANGENTS, TO TAKE A MORE DIRECT AND ACTIVE ROLE IN FOREIGN POLICY. JOEL MOITSE (COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY) TAKES UP HIS PROMOTION UNDER A CLOUD BECAUSE OF THE LOW STATE OF THE UBLS ROMA CAMPUS OVER WHICH HE HAS BEEN PRESIDING. WHETHER HE WAS RESCUED FROM UBLS OR IT FROM HIM NOT CLEAR. JULIUS KHASOANE, NEW MINISTER OF STATE IN PM'S OFFICE, HAS BEEN SITTING IN APPOINTED INTERIM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON BNP SIDE WITHOUT ANY DISTINCTION.

6. OLD CABINET WAS SINGULARLY UNIMPRESSIVE WITH ONLY FINANCE MINISTER SEKHONYANA CLEARLY WORTHY OF HIS POSITION. PROSPECTS FOR NEW CABINET ARE NO BRIGHTER. THAT GOVERNMENT MERELY ABLE SHUFFLE OLD GUARD AROUND RATHER THAN COMING UP WITH INSPIRING NEW FACES INDICATIVE OF PAUCITY OF TALENT AVAILABLE WITHIN BNP. ONLY FAVORABLE POINT WE CAN MAKE IS THAT U.S. HAD GOOD ACCESS TO FORMER MINISTERS AND SHOULD DO AS WELL WITH NEW ONES.
HAUGHT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MASERU00788
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740180-0263
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740770/aaaacihs.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. MASERU 783
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LESOTHO CABINET CHANGES
TAGS: PINT, LT
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005